

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Davidson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to claim methods and systems for handling an incoming call to or an outgoing call from a subscriber terminal of a Centrex group. Davidson only discloses an ISDN switching system in which the off-hook status of covered terminals is indicated on other terminals. Accordingly, in Davidson each terminal has an ISDN connection to the switching module and the D-channel of ISDN is used in a very special manner for the transportation of the off-hook information.

In comparison, applicants claim systems and methods that utilize a Centrex group. Unlike ISDN switching systems, Centrex technology depends on the technology of Intelligent networking as defined in the Q1200 series of ITI. Centrex can not only be used for ISDN terminals, but can also be used for analogue terminals. Since Davidson does not disclose or suggest systems utilizing Centrex as claimed, the rejection of claims 1-8 as anticipated by Davidson should be withdrawn.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.449122026200.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jonathan Bockman

Registration No.: 45,640

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300

McLean, Virginia 22102

(703) 760-7769